

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated September 20, 2006 ("OA"). In the Office Action, claim 3 was rejected under 35 USC §112, claims 1, 2-8, 10, 11, 14 and 18-23 under 35 USC §102, and claim 18 was rejected under 35 USC §103. By this amendment, claims 1-4, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15 and 17-21 are cancelled, claims 5, 10, 13, 14 and 16 are amended, and claims 24-26 are added. Currently pending claims 5-7, 10, 13, 14, 16, 22 and 24-26 are believed allowable, with claims 5, 10, 13, 14 and 16 being independent claims.

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. By this amendment, claim 3 is cancelled. Thus, this rejection is moot.

The Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 9, 12, 13, 15 and 16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response thereto, claims 1-4, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15 and 17-21 are cancelled. The Applicants reserve the right to pursue the cancelled subject matter in a continuation application.

Claim 5 is amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 9. Claim 5 is therefore believed allowable for at least the reasons given in the Office Action for claim 9. Claims 6, 7 and 22 are dependent on and further limit claim 5. Since claim 5 is believed allowable, claims 6, 7 and 22 are also believed allowable.

Claim 10 is amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 11 and 12. Claim 10 is therefore believed allowable for at least the reasons given in the Office Action for claim 12.

Claim 13 is amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 10. Claim 13 is therefore believed allowable for at least the reasons given in the Office Action. Claims 24 and 25 are dependent on and further limit claim 13. Since claim 13 is believed allowable, claims 24 and 25 are also believed allowable.

Claim 14 is amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 15. Claim 14 is therefore believed allowable for at least the reasons given in the Office Action for claim 15.

Claim 16 is amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 14. Claim 26 are dependent on and further limit claim 16. Since claim 16 is believed allowable, claim 26 is also believed allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the forgoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this case is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If any points remain at issue that the Examiner feels could best be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to contact the attorney below.

No fee is believed due with this Amendment, however, should such a fee be required please charge Deposit Account 50-0510 the required fee. Should any extensions of time be required, please consider this a petition thereof and charge Deposit Account 50-0510 the required fee.

Respectfully submitted,



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